



*California Recovery Task Force*

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## **Gov. Schwarzenegger Urges Federal Investment in California's High-Speed Rail**

### ***Schwarzenegger Administration Announces Appointments to High-Speed Rail Independent Peer Review Committee***

In anticipation of the Obama Administration unveiling its strategic plan for high-speed rail as mandated in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act), Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today continued to urge significant federal investment in California's high-speed rail system, the development of which is far ahead of any other high-speed rail system in the nation.

"With more than ten years of planning already completed and a commitment last November by voters to issue nearly \$10 billion of state bonds, California is once again leading the nation as the first state to commence and fund high speed rail development. On top of boosting demand for jobs at a time when we need it most, federal investment in our high-speed rail system will help lay a sustainable foundation for economic growth, help us meet our environmental goals and improve our quality of life," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "We have already laid the groundwork for high-speed rail in California and with a boost from our federal partners, nearly 40 million Californians and millions of travelers from around the world will be able to experience the reality of America's first high-speed rail system."

The state formed the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) in 1996 and voters provided a nearly \$10 billion down payment for high-speed rail in California with the passage of Proposition 1A last November. Over the last 10 years, the CHSRA has conducted extensive studies to prepare for the implementation of high-speed trains in California including detailed feasibility studies, environmental impact reports and an implementation plan. Additionally, CHSRA is actively pursuing a multi-track financing strategy for the planning, design and construction phases of the project, including three tiers: state and local funding, federal funding and public-private partnerships.

With the passage of Proposition 1A voters also approved the formation of the California High-Speed Rail Independent Peer Review Committee (Peer Review Committee) to provide additional support to CHSRA's board and management in building out the high-speed rail project. The Peer Review Committee was formed for the purpose of reviewing the planning, engineering, financing and other elements of the CHSRA's plans and issuing an analysis of the authority's financing plan, including the funding plan required for each corridor. Governor Schwarzenegger today announced four appointments from his Administration to the Peer Review Committee.

"With this Peer Review Committee, we are assuring our federal, local and public partners that high-speed rail in California will be planned with foresight, built and operated efficiently, and financed with accountability to the taxpayers," said Governor Schwarzenegger.

The Peer Review Committee includes eight members; three designated by the secretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, one designated by the director of the Department of Finance, two designated by the treasurer and two designated by the controller.

The following have been designated by Business, Transportation and Housing Agency Secretary Dale Bonner:

Louis Thompson, 67, of Saratoga, has served as principal of Thompson, Galenson and Associates since 2003, a consulting firm that works with public and commercial clients on railway and transport issues. From 1986 to 2003, he worked for the World Bank where as railways advisor, he reviewed rail plans around the globe. From 1978 to 1986, he served as director of the Northeast Corridor Improvement Project for the Federal Railroad Administration under the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). Prior to that, Thompson worked for an economic consulting firm from 1973 to 1978, was a policy and budget analyst in the Office of the Secretary for the U.S. DOT from 1968 to 1973 where he served as a member of the team that created Amtrak, and was a project engineer for The Badger Company from 1965 to 1968. Thompson is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Harvard Business School. He is a Democrat.

Will Kempton, 62, of Folsom, has served as director of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) since Governor Schwarzenegger appointed him in 2004. From 2003 to 2004, he served as the assistant city manager of the city of Folsom and, from 1992 to 2002, he was a partner at Smith, Kempton & Watts, a private public affairs consulting firm with a significant emphasis on major infrastructure programs—particularly, transportation-related. Kempton also previously served as executive director of the Santa Clara County Traffic Authority from 1985 to 1992. Prior to that, he served in a number of positions at Caltrans, including assistant director for legislative and congressional affairs from 1980 to 1985. Kempton is a Democrat.

Eugene Skoropowski, 64, of Dublin, has served as managing director for the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority since 1999. From 1991 to 1999, he served as director of rail projects for

the Fluor Corporation and, from 1982 to 1991, he was assistant general manager for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority. Skoropowski previously served as chief railroad services officer for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority from 1977 to 1982. Prior to that, he was a registered architect and partner for the Boston Architectural Team, Incorporated from 1970 to 1977. Skoropowski is a member of the States for Rail Passenger Coalition, Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce and the American Public Transportation Association, where he also serves on the Association's High Speed/Intercity Rail Committee. He previously served on the Intercity Rail Working Group supporting the National Commission Study on Transportation Policy & Investment submitted to Congress in 2008. Skoropowski is a Republican.

The following has been designated by Department of Finance Director Michael Genest:

John Chalker, 58, of San Diego, has served as managing director and portfolio manager for the LM Capital Group since 1995. From 1980 to 1995, Chalker served as vice president and senior financial consultant for Merrill Lynch & Company. Prior to that, he served in the U.S. Navy from 1972 to 1979. Chalker is a member of the California Transportation Commission, San Diego World Trade Center, Alliance in Support of Airport Progress in the 21st Century and the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. Chalker is a Republican.

These positions do not require Senate confirmation and there is no salary.

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